

The Thornton in Lonsdale

Winter

Community Newsletter

2010/11

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

'Ode to the West Wind' 1819

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Ingleborough Archaeology Group

We are now, as actors say, "resting." There are still problems to be solved and here is one:

In late September I was investigating a cairn field on the side of Whernside with Arthur Batty when I saw a large blob of a jelly-like substance on the ground. It was a bit bigger than my fist and completely transparent. Arthur said that there must have been a meteor shower the night before and that it was star jelly. I took this to be a complete wind up but on looking up "STAR JELLY" in Wikipedia I found this:

"Star jelly (also called astromyxin, astral jelly, pwwr sêr, star rot, or star shot) is a gelatinous substance, which, according to folklore, is deposited on the earth during meteor showers." There were references to this substance from medieval times up to today.

Further investigation revealed, however, that NOBODY has any proven theory as to what the stuff is although there are theories covering the organic (frog spawn to sheep snot via slime moulds) to the inorganic (an alternative state for water.) A good weblink is www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/outdoors/articles/jelly/ which will thicken the plot.

Arthur told me that he had seen examples when he worked as a boy at Braida Garth and always assumed it was something natural. When I mentioned the stuff to my family they, too, had seen examples. Have you seen the stuff? All information gladly received.

IAG meetings in Ingleton Community Centre for the next three months are:

20th Dec. "Rock Art on Ilkley Moor" presented by Dr Keith Boughey. Followed by mince pies and drinks.

17th Jan. Review of the year's IAG activities presented by members of the IAG Committee.

21st Feb. "A load of old trout? Using fish bones to understand the past" presented by Hannah Russ.

Jeff Price 41303

car headlights. They overwinter as adults. Also large flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings are noisily flying from tree to tree winter visitors from a colder Scandinavia. Watch for Bramblings on the feeders-winter finches with orange chests and speckled brown backs. We've had two of these. The most spectacular migrants (again from Scandinavia) are the exotic Waxwings, here in their thousands as they have either bred well or have run out of berries at home. They will be on any tree with berries.

For a close-up of garden tits hang a high energy fat ball by the kitchen window. A reminder: Blue Tit small with blue cap, Coal Tit small, black cap with white patch and buff chest, Great Tit larger with black line down yellow chest, Long Tailed Tit small, black, white and pink, tail as long as body.

-Was this year good for wildlife? Despite the deluge we had Southern Hawker Dragonflies on the pond here at Bankhouse but no Darters and in dappled shade Speckled Wood Butterflies. Among the many commoner butterflies on his Buddleias, Alan Collier reported rarer Commas: orange with brown spots, ragged wing edges and a white 'comma' on the dark underwings. These hibernate in winter in dead leaves in wooded places.

This winter, take a lens to mosses and lichens on walls and admire their miniature beauty. Some mosses carry their capsules high to mature before opening in spring and distributing their spores. Also ferns in hedge bottoms can be admired easier as some don't die down: the handsome Hard Shield Fern, the Harts Tongue and the Polypody.

Please phone 41155 with your sightings this winter. Always happy to hear from you and chat about local wildlife.

Liz and Roger Neale 41155

We would like to thank all the generous people of Westhouse for their donations to our recent house-to-house collection for Marie Curie Care. You raised an amazing £120!

Natural History

Hasn't it been a good year for autumn colours? They brighten the darkest month – November. The Ivy flowers are open now, however, providing nectar for late-flying insects such as the Chestnut Moth and the common Winter Moth, which you often see in

THE FILM

for Film night on 11 February: suggestions so far are **Avatar**, **Sherlock**, **Australia**, **New Day**. Please add your choice to the list by sending to cr.jenk@hotmail.co.uk or phone 41336. Most votes wins.

Westhouse Methodist Chapel

The last event of the Autumn was the visit of 'Simple Harmony,' the ladies music and singing group with refreshments and chat afterwards.

On 1 December at 7pm we have been invited to sing carols at Country Harvest's Christmas Extravaganza.

On 19 December will be the Christmas family service at 11am and in the evening at 6.30 the Carol Service by Candlelight lead by Dr Sheila Hunter.

Our Christmas Day Service will be at 10.30.

On Saturday 22 January 2011 at 7.30 pm we are having a return visit of 'Live Issue,' a country and western group from Northern Ireland. They will also be leading our Sunday morning service on the 23rd.

We continue to have good congregations at our Sunday services at 11am and 6.30pm. Our midweek fellowship meetings are on Tuesday evenings at 7.30.

We extend a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us at any of our services.

Thomas Fawcett 41222

In the Garden

Once again, a horrible season weather-wise, very wet, which has put things behind. Baskets and bedding plants could have been better but for the rain. I hope you have been able to put in any hardy shrubs – there may still be a chance – but when soil turns to mud digging must be left.

The best thing about the autumn has been the apple crop – the best in years with huge yields. From December onwards, pick your days for continuing to plant bulbs for a spring show of your favourites that will cheer the dark days of February. Also compost any leaves still lying. Why not try a little indoor gardening now? Pot up some little cutting from chrysanthus to pot on in February. You can start your Sweet Peas early in a cold greenhouse or on the windowsill, little lettuces too.

Broad Beans are worth a try now in dry peat - they should be alright in a sheltered spot. Your thoughts will be turning to Christmas decorations, for the table and the door: evergreens and berries – Hawthorn as well as Holly, and Hips if you're lucky.

Alan Collier 41868

NCHT (North Craven Heritage Trust)

It has been an interesting season of talks so far with Tot Lord, one of the Yorkshire Dales' greatest characters, the AGM and Public Health, and an excellent presentation of the Upper Ribble Wetlands Project by Adrian Shepherd, well-

known to local farmers. The Christmas Party will be held on 3 December after which the new programme for the year will be available on the website:

www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk

Heather Jemson 41480

The Village Hall

'Friday Evenings' (third of the month)

There will be no meeting in December.

20 January, Dominoes and Pie & Pea Supper
18 Feb Malcolm Culshaw 'Slides of Old Ingleton'

Judith 41193. To book the Hall: **Doreen 41448**

Parish Council

After considering the response from Mr Cairns of Area5 to their proposed one-way system at Smithy Lane and the evidence provided both by residents and their representative at that meeting, members decided not to proceed.

Remembrance: members decided to increase the Poppy Donation this year to include the small wooden cross on the field of Remembrance at Wootton Basset (plot no.3099) At the Memorial chairman councillor Wiper read out the names of the fallen and placed the Poppy Cross on behalf of



all residents beside that of St Oswald's Church. The council provided a tub of cyclamen to grace the memorial and has replanted the tubs on the Green.

At a special emergency meeting to consider the restructuring of the Middle School, members were Squarely behind Ingleton Parish council in their efforts to save it. Letters of support viewable on the website

A donation towards the electrification of St Oswald's clock and repair to old beams supporting it was agreed for the benefit of residents and visitors. (The tower is a listed building.)

The next meeting of the council is 8 December 7.30 in the Village Hall. All welcome.

Full details of the work of the council are available at

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

Christine Jenkinson 41336

Young Farmers

An organisation for young people 10-26 years.

Rachael Easterby 07817918234 or Gemma

Kirkby Lonsdale Choral Society

Verdi's 'Gloria'

and Carols from the Oxford Carol Book

Sunday 12 December, 7.30

St Mary's Church, Kirkby Lonsdale

£8 to include wine and mince pies
Children free.

St Oswald's Parish Church

On the eve of Harvest Festival in September parishioners with our friends from Westhouse Methodist Church enjoyed a successful Jacob's Join Supper at the Village Hall. Everyone took part in the following quiz and games and a great time was had by all!

On 26th September Parishioners, relatives and friends joined Katie and Jonathon Harrison when they celebrated the Baptism of their son, Sam. Churches Celebrated Together during the weekend of 16th/17th October when Revd Richard Hardy from Cardiff came to preach. There was a workshop on Saturday afternoon for those who work with young people. A well attended main Celebration this year took place at Bentham Methodist Church on the Sunday evening.

On Saturday, 30th October, the Marriage Ceremony of Samatha Morphet to Kane Rooke took place and on Sunday, 31st October, All Saints joined us at St Oswald's for our annual 'In Loving Memory' Service. Loved ones' who had passed away were named and special hymns to their memory were sung and candles lit.

The Remembrance Service took place on 14th November when wreaths were laid on the Memorial on behalf of the church and the Parish Council for all residents.

Saturday, 27th November was St Oswald's Christmas Fayre - a fun morning raising money for the St. Oswald's Church Development Fund which will go towards a new kitchen and toilet.

The St Oswald's Newsletter has been delivered and our Special Services are listed in the leaflet.

However, if you have not seen a copy, please note the following events and times :-

Sunday, 5th December, at 4.00pm - Christingle Service

Saturday, 11th December, 7.00pm - Concert in St Oswald's Church given by Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band. Soup and mince pies will be served. Tickets £8.00 - Proceeds to the Church Development Fund.

Sunday 12th December 4.00pm Carol Service

Friday, 24th December, 11.30pm The Benefice Midnight Communion will take place at All Saints and Saturday, 25th December 9.30 Christmas Day Service. Sunday, 26th December 9.30am Feast of St Stephen.

2011: During the New Year we hope to organise various Fund Raising activities-Coffee Morning,

Ceilidh Band, Sponsored Walk and Flower Arranging-to name but a few!. Lookout for our advertising and posters.

Jean Bell 41137

Poultry Club

The next show in Lower Westhouse will be in January, date tba. Ring **Yvonne Metcalfe** 63114

WI

(Thornton-in-Lonsdale Branch)

Two of our meetings this autumn have brought the wider world closer to us: Mie Wynne from Walks Worldwide showed us Africa, Sweden, Greece and Peru with his group and family camping holidays, and Teena Douglas Taylor the Middle East with her Jordon Challenge.

At the Annual Meeting last month President Ann Hunter, Secretary Margaret Owen and Treasurer Elaine Bateson were all re-elected and Beatrice Brown won the annual competition, this year for a memento of the Queen's Coronation.

On Tuesday 7 December Peter McNaught will finish our year with 'The Beauty of Stained Glass.' All welcome at 7.30 in Lower Westhouse Village Hall.

Next year the group will reach its 90th Birthday. We are proud to be one of the first in England and will celebrate accordingly. (Programme to be published.)

Anne Hunter 41120

The Masongill Phonebox adopted for £1



Although arguably an endangered species these days, the red telephone box created by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott has long been considered a design icon: one of those

Items that instantly marked the nation's identity to overseas visitors. Nothing that has been designed since to fulfil the same purpose has been anywhere near so fondly regarded.

The Website

www.thorntoninlonsdale.co.uk

has been receiving a healthily growing number of hits, according to Google Analytics, from as far away as California. Also many repeated visits have been recorded, so – send us your news, views, pics, happy events, (maybe grumbles) and stories. They are interested!

Geoff Brown

We paid our last respects to Geoff Brown on Tuesday 23 November when he was laid to rest next to his wife Irene in the churchyard of St Oswald's where he had spent much of his life. In his youth he was a regular member of the choir and later tended the churchyard, mapping out the graves when the relevant documents were lost. It is typical of him that donations at the service were for the Friends of St Oswald's of which he had been Chairman and later President.



His involvement in the parish included the Village Hall which, under his aegis, flourished for some years. He was an avid student of local history and his knowledge was such that he was being consulted by visitors from other countries even when he was in the Inleborough.

His love of music was very extensive, his favourite piece being the Adagio from Mahler's 5th Symphony.

His death leaves a mighty gap in our community

Ron Taylor

Thornton Hall (2)

Sadly, the only thing that remains of Thornton hall today is the great hearth and chimney that was installed by the Redmaynes to replace the central fire which took the smoke from cooking and heating out into the open air, beyond the roof, a great improvement. Moreover it allowed the construction of a mezzanine floor, and with bedrooms for his lordship and the family upstairs, a new style of privacy came to English country life.

Like many country houses of the time it had its own chapel. A pious family, they held their own prayers morning and evening in the chapel joined by servants and members of the estate. When family members died, they were buried in the Hall chapel and so was Lady Sarah as our parish registers record. After bombardment by the parliamentary army during the civil war, the hall gradually fell out of use, decayed and now all that remains is that fine hearth and chimney stack set in a field. It is worth a visit to Dent Rd to have a look at the remains, now beyond the farm, or Lady Sarah's tomb slab which faithful retainers brought down to the parish church for safe keeping.

John Hunter

Conservation

There will be thousands of primroses this spring on the bank along Thornton Lane, This verge was chosen for management as it was known to be species-rich: oxeye daisy, common spotted orchid, red campion, the large field scabious, bluebell, zig-zag clover crosswort, lesser knapweed, hairy St John's wort, fragrant orchids and Greater Burnet, an excellent indicator. (Many Twayblade orchids occur in the shade on the opposite bank.)

This has been the second autumn that a local work party led by James Ferguson, NYCC and YDNPA Conservation Officer, have spent a morning clearing brambles and saplings, transferring the debris onto the bonfires of sympathetic farmers when seeds have dropped through.

There will be a further party doing winter wood trimming on the morning of Wednesday 12 January. Contact **Roger Neale 41155** or just come along if you can.

BY POPULAR REQUEST

Kirkby Lonsdale Brass Band

Concert in St Oswald's Church
Saturday, 11th December, 7.00pm

Soup and mince pies will be served.

Tickets £8.00

Proceeds to the Church Development
Fund.



♪ *We Wish You a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!* ♪

